

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claim 10 is withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 11 and 12 are amended for clarity.

On page 2, the Office Action requires a species election between two species of the inventive subject matter as shown in Figures. 1 and 4.

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the species shown in Figure 1, with claims 1-9 and 11-13 readable thereon, with traverse. It is submitted that claim 1 is generic to all species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). Further, it is submitted two species is not an excessive number of species to examine that such would constitute a burden. It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

On page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Pfefferle, U.S. Patent No. 3,975,900. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a gas turbine engine comprising a combustor; a compressor for supplying air to the combustor; a turbine driven by gas from the combustor; an air flow control system installed in an air intake path for introducing air to the compressor, the air

intake path being located outside and upstream with respect to the compressor; and intake air flow control means for controlling an intake air flow by operating the air flow control system according to a load of the engine so as to maintain an air-to-fuel ratio in the combustor within a proper range suited to suppress a discharge of an atmospheric pollutant. Pfefferle fails to disclose or suggest all of these features.

Contrary to the Office Action's assertion, Pfefferle fails to disclose or suggest intake air flow control means for controlling an intake air flow by operating the air flow control system according to a load of the engine so as to maintain an air-to-fuel ratio in the combustor within a proper range suited to suppress a discharge of an atmospheric pollutant, as recited in claim 1. Pfefferle only discloses a gas turbine system including a compressor 10 in which an air flow regulation valve 18 having adjustable louvers 20 is installed. When the turbine system is idle, the air intake control valve 18 is nearly closed, i.e., the louvers are nearly in a shut position (col. 14, lines 30-32). The power utilized by the operation of a free turbine 15 leaves the motive fluid with insufficient power to run the power turbine 54 (col. 14, lines 32-35). The air intake control valve 18 is opened when an output of the turbine system is required in a load operation. However, the combustion temperature (air flow) is controlled by an air portioning valve 24 installed in main line 28 to the combustor 26 and also feeds bypass line 46, rather than the air flow regulation valve 18, during load operation. Thus, in Pfefferle's system, the air flow regulation valve 18, is not used to control the combustion temperature (air flow) during load operation.

On the other hand, the intake air flow control means of Applicants' claim 1 controls the intake air flow by operating the air flow control system during a load operation so that the combustion temperature is controlled to suppress a discharge of an atmospheric pollutant. Therefore, because Pfefferle fails to disclose or suggest the intake air flow control means of

Applicants' claim 1, Pfefferle fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of Applicants' claim 1.

Further, because claims 2-5, 7-10 and 13 incorporate the features of claim 1, Pfefferle fails to disclose or suggest the features of any of these claims for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features found therein.

Thus, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

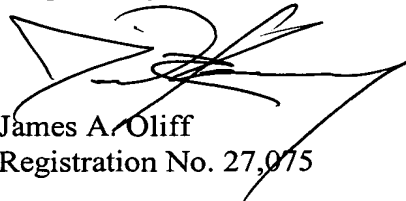
On page 2, the Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pfefferle in view of Gulick, U.S. Patent No. 3,146,585. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gulick does not overcome the deficiencies of Pfefferle with respect to claim 1. As such, the combination cannot suggest the subject matter of claim 1, or claim 6, which depends from claim 1, for the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features recited in claim 6. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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